

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR PINT PROP

SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT MEDIA FOR JANUARY 17 AND 18

1. JANUARY 17 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS GAVE BANNER HEADLINES
TO FRIDAY'S DEATH OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATOR AT AKROTIRI
SBA. MOST PAPERS ENCOURAGED ATTENDANCE AT
JANUARY 18 DEMONSTRATIONS. ANTI-BRITISH SENTIMENT
CUT ACROSS USUAL POLITICAL LINES IN BOTH NEWS COVERAGE
AND EDITORIALS AS LEFTIST PAPERS HARANGUED ANGLO
IMPERIALISTS AND RIGHTIST PRESS STIRRED UP OLD
NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS AGAINST FORMER
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COLONIALISTS. PHILELEFTHEROS, ETHNIKI, AGHON,

HARAVGHI, MACHI ALL CARRY THUMPING EDITORIALS
DEMANDING CLOSING OF BASES. TA NEA THREATENS "STRUGGLE
WILL NOT BE BY DIPLOMATIC NOTES." ALL PAPERS
BACKPAGE SECONDARY STORIES ON FRIDAY'S INTERCOMMUNAL
TALKS.

2. JANUARY 19 PAPERS BLAZON HEADLINES AND PROMINENT
PHOTOS OF SATURDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS AND RIOTS,
INTERESTINGLY EMPHASIZING ATTACK ON AMERICAN EMBASSY
INSTEAD OF BRITISH OFFICES. NEWS TREATMENT APPROXIMATELY
EQUAL ACROSS BOARD WITH ONLY AGHON AND PHILELEFTHEROS
GIVING ANY PROMINENCE TO MIN INTERIOR STATEMENT URGING
DEMONSTRATORS TO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE AND PROPERTY
DAMAGE. AGHON ONLY PAPER TO EDITORIALIZE CONSTRUCTIVELY
NOTING THAT "WE MUST DRAW A LINE BETWEEN ATTITUDE OF
BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND RESPECTIVE PEOPLES."
ALSO CALLS ON DEMONSTRATORS TO BE NON-VIOLENT. ETHNIKI
CARRIES LONG EDITORIAL ALLEGING ANTI-GREEK ATTITUDE
OF BRITISH OVER LAST 20 YEARS. HARAVGHI DEMANDS
ABOLITION OF BASES TO PUT AN END TO LONDON'S "DIRTY
GAME DIRECTED BY WASHINGTON'S KISSINGERS." EVACUATION
OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES ONLY LIGHTLY TOUCHED ON.

3. AFTER TWO PREVIOUS DAYS OF PLAYING UP VIOLENCE OF
DEMONSTRATIONS, JAN 18 EVENING TV NEWS GAVE ONLY
BAREST FILM COVERAGE OF VIOLENT NICOSIA
ACTIVITIES AND CARRIED LONG SEQUENCES OF SPEECHES AND
PEACEFUL MANIFESTATIONS. NEWSCAST LED WITH MILD
APPEALS BY INT MIN AND ED MIN URGING NON-VIOLENCE.

4. COMMENT. SENSATIONALISM IS RUNNING AT FEVER
PITCH EXPECTED FROM GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. EMPHASIS
ON NICOSIA RIOTS, ESPECIALLY OUR OWN RATHER
SPECTACULAR ONE, EFFECTIVELY DREW PUBLIC ATTENTION
AWAY FROM TURKISH EVACUATION. CBC WAS OBVIOUSLY
GIVEN THE SIGNAL TO COOL IT LAST NIGHT. WE'LL SEE
ABOUT TOMORROW.
BROWN

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